

it is from these notes and from letters which he collected, that the autobiography you have was composed.

"We have reason to believe that he commenced it about ten years ago, writing in it from time to time. The reason it ends abruptly was not on account of failing health, but because all the time he could spare from his painting was, during the last year of his life, occupied by him in writing the life of Sir Joshua Reynolds, at which he worked hard even a month before his death."

TOM TAYLOR.

STATE OF TECHNOLOGY

Levi D. Smith
1927

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL
RECOLLECTIONS.

IN PRESS:

THE LIFE OF SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS.

BY MR. LESLIE.

WITH NOTICES OF HOGARTH, WILSON, GAINSBOROUGH, AND
OTHER ARTISTS, HIS CONTEMPORARIES.

STATE OF TECHNOLOGY



AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL
RECOLLECTIONS.

BY THE LATE

CHARLES ROBERT LESLIE, R. A.

EDITED,

WITH A PREFATORY ESSAY ON LESLIE AS AN ARTIST,
AND SELECTIONS FROM HIS CORRESPONDENCE,

BY TOM TAYLOR, Esq.,
EDITOR OF THE "AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF HAYDON."

WITH PORTRAIT.

BOSTON:
TICKNOR AND FIELDS.
MDCCCLX.

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Albemarle Street, London, *April 30, 1860.*

Messrs. TICKNOR AND FIELDS:

DEAR SIRs, — Acting on behalf of the representatives of the late Mr. LESLIE, R. A., I have great pleasure in placing in your hands the early sheets of that eminent Artist's "Memoirs and Correspondence" for exclusive publication in the United States; believing that you, as personal friends of the late Mr. LESLIE, will be most disposed to promote the interests of the work and of the family. Xm

I remain, Dear Sirs,

Yours very faithfully,

JOHN MURRAY.

RIVERSIDE, CAMBRIDGE:
STEREOTYPED AND PRINTED BY
H. O. HOUGHTON AND COMPANY.

EDITOR'S PREFACE.

It is owing to the innate modesty of the late Mr. Leslie's character, that in his Autobiographical Recollections the part occupied by himself and his pictures is small in comparison with that devoted to his contemporaries and friends. So great is my respect for Mr. Leslie, that I have hesitated long before giving to the world any more about him than he had thought fit himself to prepare for publication.

But when I took into account his claims to consideration as a painter, I felt strongly that readers must wish to know more about the man than he had himself told them—more about the circumstances and influences under which his pictures were produced; the present state and locality of these pictures; their subjects; the way in which those subjects are treated, and the general characteristics of his style.

I have therefore attempted, in an Introductory Essay, to classify and describe such of Leslie's more important works as I have been able to examine personally, and to give a general appreciation of his artistic qualities, and his position in the English school.

I have, further, selected from the correspondence placed

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at my disposal, the parts bearing on the painter's works, and on his life as connected with his works. Without such an addition to the Autobiographical Recollections which Leslie had himself made ready for posthumous publication, this volume would not — as it seems to me — have contained the information required to give it its proper place among the artistic biographies of the time — such lives as have been published, or are preparing, of Wilkie and Constable, Etty, Haydon, and Turner.

In using the matter entrusted to me, I have been guided by the strongest regard and respect for the painter, and for the family that is left to lament the irreparable loss of such a husband, brother, and father. I have endeavoured to bear in mind, always, the modesty, tolerance, and good taste which ruled throughout Leslie's life and labours; and to respect the time and patience of my readers. Affectionate admiration for my subject may, however, have in some cases misled me as to what was worth printing about him — having regard, at least, to the wider public. I have little fear that the many friends of Leslie, and the large circle of them who, like myself, have loved and benefited by his works, will think I have extracted too much from his letters, or that I have rated the man or his pictures too highly.

His son, Mr. George Leslie, writes thus to me, of the manner in which the Autobiographical Recollections were composed:—

“The manner in which my father's autobiography was written was this. He was in the habit of writing down accounts of anything of importance that occurred to him all his life, and